REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 21-24, 26-28, 31 and 33 are presented for consideration. Claims 21, 31and 33 are independent. Claim 30 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21 and 31 have been amended to clarify features of the invention, while claim 33 has been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and this claim can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 21-24, 26, 27, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,864,130 to Kahn et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,303,398 to Goerigk. Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kahn et al. patent in view of the Goerigk patent and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,460,770 to Kucharczyk. Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims 21-24 and 26-28, 30 and 31. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that independent claims 21, 31 and 33, for example, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent claim 21 recites an apparatus for manufacturing a device using a substrate. The apparatus includes a container to contain the

substrate, a process system to perform a process using the substrate based on information of a code formed on the substrate, a transfer system which has a holding member for holding the substrate and a driving mechanism for driving the holding member to transfer the substrate between the container and the process system, and a reading system which optically reads the code formed on the substrate in a transfer process performed by the transfer system, in which at least a portion of the reading system is located on at least one of the holding member and the driving mechanism.

In another aspect of the present invention, independent claim 31 recites a method of manufacturing a device that includes the steps of transferring a substrate using a transfer system which has a holding member for holding the substrate and a driving mechanism for driving the holding member to transfer the substrate between a container to contain the substrate and a process system to perform a process using the substrate based on information of a code formed on the substrate, optically reading the code formed on the substrate using a reading system in a transfer process performed by the transfer system, at least a portion of the reading system being located on at least one of the holding member and the driving mechanism, and performing the process using the process system based on the information of the code read in the reading step to manufacture the device.

In a further aspect of the present invention, independent claim 33 recites an exposure apparatus for performing exposure of a first substrate to a pattern from a second substrate. The apparatus includes a container to contain an object, the object being one of the first and second substrates, an exposure system to perform the exposure using the object based on information of

a code formed on the object, a transfer system which has a holding member for holding the object and a driving mechanism for driving the holding member to transfer the object between the container and the exposure system, and a reading system which optically reads the code formed on the object in a transfer process performed by the transfer system, in which at least a portion of the reading system is located on at least one of the holding member and the driving mechanism.

By such an arrangement, the present invention provides the ability to transfer a substrate using a transfer system, which has a holding member for holding the substrate and a driving mechanism for driving the holding member to transfer the substrate between a container to contain the substrate and a process system to perform a process using the substrate based on information of a code formed on the substrate, and to optically read the code formed on the substrate using a reading system in a transfer process performed by the transfer system. Further, at least a portion of the reading system can be located on at least one of the holding member and the driving mechanism.

Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest such features of the present invention, as recited in independent claims 21, 31 and 33.

In particular, Applicant submits that the Kahn et al. patent fails to teach or suggest salient features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in the independent claims, including a driving mechanism for driving a holding member to transfer a substrate between a container and a process system, which performs a process using the substrate based on information of a code formed on the substrate. Still further, Applicant submits that the Kahn et al. patent fails to teach

or suggest a reading system, at least a portion of which is located on at least one of a holding member and a driving mechanism. Accordingly, the Kahn et al. patent does not teach or suggest many features of Applicant's present invention, as recited in independent claims 21, 31 and 33.

Applicant further submits that the remaining art cited fails to cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Kahn et al. patent.

The Goerigk patent merely teaches a system in which a bar code contains information about different processes for a semiconductor wafer, and the Kucharczyk patent merely teaches that a code can be formed in a transparent substrate. Applicant submits, however, that the Goerigk and Kucharczyk patents fail to teach or suggest any relation between a transfer system and a reading system, much less a driving mechanism and a process system, in the manner of the present invention recited in independent claims 21, 31 and 33. Applicant submits, therefore, that the Goerigk and Kucharczyk patents add nothing to the teachings of the Kahn et al. patent that would render obvious Applicant's present invention recited in independent claims 21, 31 and 33.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 21, 31 and 33, is patentably defined over the cited art.

Dependent claims 22-24 and 26-28 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent claim 21. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicant further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Steven E. Warner
Registration No. 33,326

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
SEW/eab

DC_MAIN 207330v1